

Traffic Diverter

Santa Cruz city councilmembers Tuesday night voted to review the effectiveness of the traffic diverter on California Street at Laurel at its first meeting in June.

When the council approved the diverter, which was erected at the end of December, it set the matter for review in nine months. Mellis sought the earlier review because of complaints he said he has received from parents of students at Santa Cruz High School.

In other business:

•Lincoln Street — Councilmembers clarified an earlier decision to make Lincoln Street one way down the hill from Walnut Street by adding a provision for an "S" curve to be installed to keep downhill traffic at one lane. A similar diverter was erected last year on Second Street.

•Methane Gas Recovery — Councilmembers approved a plan to install methane gas pipelines at the city dump. Methane gas recovered from landfill will be used to power a generator to pump leachate to evaporation ponds. Should additional gas be available, it would be used to power other uses at the landfill, including shredders or separation devices.

•Mall Extension — Councilmembers voted to canvass property owners on Cooper Street to see if they are willing to form an assessment district to extend the Pacific Garden Mall. The county, which owns the Octagon museum, is interested in the mall extension as is the Cooper House, according to Rotkin. Those two property owners are sufficient to proceed with the project.

•SERD Project — On a 4-2 vote, the council approved a grant, previously denied, to the Social Economic Research and Development Project, which provides job training and business aid to minorities and the economically disadvantaged. The grant for \$19,600 will allow SERD to operate until June.

•Woodrow Avenue — The council voted unanimously to approve an underground utility district on Woodrow Avenue from Erret Circle to West Cliff Drive. The cost of undergrounding utility lines is to be paid by the utility companies, but individual service lines to homes are to be paid by homeowners. Average cost is estimated at \$600. The council also voted to have staff develop a low-cost loan program for residents who could not afford the cost.